4: West K-5 (1946) 1948 NU34 Tarasco NU34
[P. 30 a] Sierra

342 (2) Veracruz on the northern slopes of the Cofre
171 de Perote; (3) the Sierra Madre Oriental between Apulco and Huayacocotla near the Hidalgo-Veracruz border and near the Pan American highway northeast of Jacala, Hidalgo; (4) the Sierra Madre Occidental (Durango and Chihuahua); (5) isolated spots in the Sierra Madre del Sur (Guerrero) west of Chilpancingo; and (6) the Tarascan Sierra of Michoacán. The log cabin in
342 Durango and Chihuahua possibly may have been
171 introduced by United States Confederate refugees,
177 a few of whom settled in the Sierra Madre in the late 1860's and 1870's. Located near one of the main Veracruz-México roads, the Perote people also may have obtained the idea of interlocked logs from United States or European travelers or settlers. The plank structures of Michoacan are technically superior to the North American log cabin (introduced into the North American colonies from Scandinavia in the 17th century), and are known to have existed since the last quarter of the 18th century. Log cabins were apparently unknown in Spain during the colonial period. The idea of their construction may have been introduced into Mexico from northern Europe.

342 There is nothing in the Relación de Michoacán or in the available Relaciones Geográficas (Muc. Nac., leg. 102) that indicates the presence of log structures among 16th-century Tarascans.[39] The native houses were constructed of adobe or stone with four-shed straw-thatched roofs. The first definite evidence of the modern *troje* that the writer has encountered appears in the Calderon report of 1789 (AGN Historia, vol. 73), which mentions ". . . jacales de . . . vigas horizontales cubiertas de tajamanil . . ." in Turícuaro (f. 336v), ". . . cuatro trojes de Maderas de Pino, bien construidas y conservadas . . ." in Nocutzepo (Lake Pátzcuaro) (f. 301), and ". . . chozas (or casas) de madera . . ." in many other towns in the Sierra (map 18). In most pueblos, however, wooden houses were mingled with those of stone or adobe. Moreover, houses constructed of small logs or poles placed vertically (*"estacas plantadas"*) were

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[39] Log fortifications were constructed by the Tarascans at Tzintzuntzan (Ciudad Hidalgo) in pre-Spanish times (Stanislawski, 1947 a, p. 46). There is no evidence, however, that the notching technique was known. For a description of pre-Conquest Tarascan houses, see Beals, Carrasco, and McCorkle, 1946, pp. 33-36.